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## ENG 3405-002: Children's Literature

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Spring 1997  
MWF 12-1250  
CH 307

### English 3405 (02): Children's Literature

**Textbooks**      Anthologies: Classics of Children's Literature,  
                    Riverside Anthology of Children's Literature,  
                    Essays: Only Connect;  
                    Novels: The Secret of the Old Clock (Nancy Drew),  
                    Harriet the Spy;  
                    Picture books: The Legend of Old Befana,  
                    Where the Wild Things Are,  
                    Arrow to the Sun,  
                    The True Story of the Three Little Pigs

### Course Assignments and Objectives:

The **reading assignments** will expose you to "classic" and popular children's literature of various types, such as poetry, folk & fairy tales, picture books, fantasy novels and realistic fiction. We will look closely at examples of each type and discuss their generic characteristics and their individual themes and purposes.

The **writing assignments** consist of a mid-term exam (on poetry and fairy tales), two papers (one on a "classic" novel and one on a picture book), a group project (on "popular" literature), a number of short informal writing assignments, and an essay final.

The **mid-term** exam will ask both factual and interpretive questions about the works we have read to that point. The **final** exam will consist of one in-class essay in which you explore one of the larger issues in children's literature by analyzing a number of the works we've read over the course of the semester.

The **papers** provide opportunities for you to work with a text that you have chosen, analyzing it using the terms and concepts introduced in class. You will choose a work that is not on our syllabus, but that is the same type (or genre) as the works we just read. For example: at the end of the section on picture books, you will write about a picture book of your choice.

For the **group project** you will first read and write series of "responses" to a work of popular fiction which you have chosen to read and research. You will then pool your information and observations with those of others who read similar works. Together you will organize this material and present it to the class. You will receive an individual grade on the responses you write about your book and a group grade on the presentation.

**Course Responsibilities and Policies:**

- 1.) You must turn in all assigned writing to pass this course.
- 2.) Your written work must be available in class as scheduled. Late work will be penalized unless we have come to an agreement *before the due date*. In-class group work cannot be made up.
- 3.) Attendance counts. If you have more than six (6) unexcused absences over the course of the semester, your grade will drop a full letter grade because you will lose at least 100 out of the 200 points possible for "participation."
- 4.) Plagiarism--*taking someone's words or ideas and using them in your own writing without giving written credit to their author*--is a serious academic offense. Using plagiarized material in any of your papers may result in a failing grade for the paper or the course and may also incur other university penalties. At the very least, you will have to re-write the paper. If you are unsure what plagiarism is, find out. The tutors in the Writing Center (CH 301) will be glad to help you with documentation, or with any other questions you have about writing. Drop by CH 301 or call for an appointment (581-)5929.
- 5.) Formal essays should be typed (or printed) and double-spaced. If at all possible, work on a computer so you can revise easily. Consult the MLA handbook or the Writing Center for proper form.
- 6.) Students with Disabilities: If you have a documented disability and wish to receive academic accommodations, please contact the Coordinator of the Office of Disability Services (581-6583) as soon as possible.

**Grades:**

Class grades will be based on the percentage you earn of the 1000 points possible:

Mid-term	= 150
Papers	= 400 total points (200+200)
Presentation	= 150
Final exam	= 100
Participation	= 200 (100 for attendance)

\*it may be necessary to adjust some point values mid-semester if we add, cancel, or revise any assignments.

**The bottom line:**

Grades are not curved: 91% (910 points) and above = A;  
81-90% (810-909 points) = B; 71-80% (710-809 points) = C;  
61-70% (610-709 points) = D; 60% (609 points) and below = F.

**English 3405 (02): Children's Literature**  
**Tentative Schedule of Reading and Writing Assignments**

- 1/13 Introductions and in-class writing
- 15 Personal Reading History Due
- 17 Read Introduction to John Newbery + all Nursery Rhymes in Classics of Children's Literature (hereafter CCL) 33-39
  
- 20 **No Class Meeting** (Martin Luther King, Jr. Day)
- 22 Read "Defining Children's Literature" (handout)
- 24 Read Introduction to poetry, "Voices of Childhood," in The Riverside Anthology of Children's Literature (hereafter RIV) 88-95 + at least 10 poems (your choice) from "Poems of the Child's World" 113-124 or "Poems of Imagination" 136-14
  
- 27 Read all the poems in "The Voices of Children" RIV 159-161
- 29 Read Introduction to Folktales RIV 245-251 + folktales from Germany: "The Elves," "The Bremen Town Musicians," "Hansel and Gretel," and "The Fisherman and His Wife" RIV 252-263
- 31 Finish reading folktales from Germany: "Rapunzel," "Snow White," "Rumpelstiltskin," "The Peasant's Clever Daughter," and "The Sleeping Beauty," RIV 263-75
  
- 2/3 Read Introduction to Joseph Jacobs CCL 775 + all tales: "Tom Tit Tot," "Jack and the Beanstalk," "The Story of the Three Little Pigs," and "The Story of the Three Little Bears," "Henny Penny," "Molly Whuppie," "Lazy Jack," "Johnny-Cake," and "Master of all Masters" CCL 776-794
- 5 Read Intro. to Perrault CCL 3-4 + these tales: "The Sleeping Beauty in the Woods," "Little Red Riding Hood," "Blue Beard," "The Master Cat, or Puss in Boots" CCL 5-17
- 7 Read and compare "Cinderella, or The Little Glass Slipper" CCL 17-21 (Perrault) & "Aschenputtel" 60-65 (Grimm); also versions of "Little Red Riding Hood" 10 (Perrault) + handout
  
- 10 Read Introduction to Andersen CCL 91 + selected tales: "The Little Mermaid" 114, "The Princess and the Pea" 127, "The Little Match Girl" 132, "The Emperor's New Clothes" 137, "The Steadfast Tin Soldier" 140, and "The Ugly Duckling" 143
- 12 Read U.S. folktales: "The Knee-High Man," "The Wonderful Tar Baby," "Wiley and the Hairy Man," "Old Fire Dragaman," "Paul Bunyan," and "Pecos Bill Becomes a Coyote" RIV 442-455
- 14 **No Class Meeting** (Lincoln's Birthday observed)
  
- 17 **Mid-term Exam**
- 19 Read "Thresholds & Frontiers: Fantasy & Sci Fi" RIV 807-813; Read also the excerpts from The Velveteen Rabbit (824-826) and A Wizard of Earthsea (900-908)
- 21 Begin Peter Pan (CCL 959), chapters 1-3

- 24 Peter Pan, chapters 4-11
- 26 Peter Pan, chapters 12-17 (end)
- 28 Read "Encounters and Adventures: Realistic and Historical Fiction" RIV 667-674; Also read the chapter excerpted from Little House in the Big Woods

- 3/3 Begin Harriet the Spy, chapters 1-4 (3-82)
- 5 Harriet the Spy, chapters 5-8 (83-164)
- 7 Harriet the Spy, chapters 9-11 (165-223)
- Topic Proposals for "Classics" paper DUE this week

- 10 Harriet the Spy, chapters 12-16 (224-298)
- 12 Begin the "classic" novel you selected (and I approved).  
Write a 2 page response to the first half of this work
- 14 Write a 2 page response to your research and turn in this response along with your xeroxed sources

17-21      **Spring Break**

- 24 Write a 2 page response to the second half of this work
- 26 Bring a draft of your paper to class
- 28 **Paper DUE**

- 31 Begin The Secret of the Old Clock(Nancy Drew)
- 4/2 Continue The Secret of the Old Clock
- 4 Finish The Secret of the Old Clock

- 7 Write a 2 page response to half of the "popular" fiction you selected (and I approved) for use in the group presentation
- 9 Write a 2 page response to research on work, author or genre
- 11 Write a 2 page response to the second half of your book(s)

14      **Group Presentations**

16      **Group Presentations**

- 18 Read Introduction to "Picture Books" RIV 165-188;  
Also read "Split Pea Soup" 202-206

- 21 Read Introduction to Beatrix Potter + The Tale of Peter Rabbit CCL 1149-83 + Where the Wild Things Are
- 23 Read Arrow to the Sun, The Legend of Old Befana, and The True Story of the Three Little Pigs
- 25 Topic Proposals for Picture Book papers DUE  
Bring the book you want to write about to class

- 28 Worksheet DUE

- 30 Draft DUE

- 5/2 **Paper DUE**

- 7      (Wednesday) **Final Exam** 12:30-2:30